

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT CONSERVATION
COMMISSION MEETING**

**East Haddam
Conservation Commission**

Sept 7, 2016

Adopted Oct. 4, 2016

1. Call to Order

The Special Meeting of the East Haddam Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, at 7:35 PM at the River House. The Chairperson being in the Chair and the Secretary being Present.

a. Roll Call

Rob Smith, Marilyn Gleeson, Joe Zaid, Paul Sienna, Peggy Carlson, Todd Gelston, Charlotte Gelston

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ms. Gelston to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Ms, Gleeson and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Conservation Commission Minutes for 8/2/16

2. changed minutes to agenda and changed a comma to a period.
7. last paragraph changed Gregory Road to Babcock Road
7. Removed the s off of Systems

Motion by Ms. Carlson to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

4. Old Business

a. Subcommittee updates

Forestry and Stewardship sub-committee: Regarding the Harris property, Mr. Gelston noted there were a number of trees that had to be cleared by the prior work party. There was quite a bit of work to re-clear some of the orange trail, which was overgrown with weeds. The municipal component of the Harris property does not look that great and needs work. It makes for a bad perception of the Conservation Commission-maintained portion of the property. Mr. Sienna noted that perhaps an option is to make the back lot a hay field. On the Harris property, the red trail has been marked. The kiosks have been painted as well. Mr. Zaid also posted signs on Hatch Lot, Harris and Rose Farm at the trail entrances outlining hunting information. He will post on Pizzini and Boot Rock as well. Rose Farm needs trail trimming as well. There are three large trees that require cutting and clearing off the trails. The new Goodwin Trail is getting quite a bit of press which is very exciting. The next work party will be at Rose Farm to stake out where the bridge should go.

Outreach and Promotion: Mr. Smith noted that the Eightmile RiverFest 2016 will be held on Oct. 15, and the CC will have a table there.

Volunteer Activism: Mr. Smith has discussed the potential of a new volunteer joining the Conservation Commission.

b. IWWC and P&Z updates

IWWC – Mr. Gelston attended the last meeting and noted there is not much to report on.

P&Z – Ms. Gleeson noted the Matthews development subdivision road item is continued to later into Sept. The Banner property owner is upset with the engineer as nothing has been submitted to get the Banner property back on the agenda in Sept.

- c. ATV ordinance
Mr. Smith noted that due to the Selectmen changes, there is nothing new to report.
- d. Making Patrell and the Eightmile Bridge access ADA compliant
Mr. Smith reviewed an elevation map with the CC members outlining how to install an ADA compliant trail. Mr. Smith will meet with a grant person from the DEEP to talk through potentially getting a grant to pay for the new ADA trail.

5. New Business

- a. New bills
Surveying bill for \$800 from Robert Weaver

Motion by Mr. Zaid to authorize the chairman to pay the bill. Second by Ms. Gleeson and unanimously approved.

\$159.90 from Shagbark

Motion by Mr. Gelston to authorize the chairman to pay the bill. Second by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

- b. Purchase of walk-behind mower
Mr. Smith provided information on walk-behind mowers. They range in price from \$2000 - \$3500.

Motion by Mr. Gelston to purchase, using the Chairman's discretion, the DR Field and Brush Mower for \$3399. Second by Ms. Gelston and unanimously approved.

- c. MyTown trail app and how to provide maps via an app
Ms. Gleeson has not been able to contact the developer and therefore there is nothing that can be done further for this app. Mr. Gelston noted there are likely lots of developers that we can discuss creating a similar app. In terms of pros and cons, Mr. Sienna noted that the app shows exactly where people are on the trail, making it hard to get lost. Mr. Gelston would like to understand what it would cost to create an app that offers a similar type of service and gather information around what it takes to support an app like this.
- d. Reappointments
Mr. Sienna, Ms. Gelston, Ms. Gleeson, Mr. Zaid all are up for reappointment. Mr. Smith asked all members up for reappointment if they are interested in continuing to support the Commission. All are interested in remaining; Mr. Smith will let the Selectmen's Office know.
- e. Public Comment
No public attended.

6. Next meeting – October 4, at The River House.

7. Announcements and other discussion

Mr. Smith has discussed the extension of the Linear Trail to the North going from Hopyard Road. He outlined the potential extensions to the CC to show how the trail could be extended up to the Airline Trail. There is already a grant to handle the signage for the extension. The main area that must be addressed is how to get from Route 82 to Devil's Hopyard. Discussions are ongoing with Fox Hopyard and I-Park regarding possible routes across their properties. There is additional work to determine how to cross Route 82 and not have hikers walk along Hopyard Road.

The Boy Scouts are interested in camping on Hatch Lot; Mr. Smith informed the Scout leader to talk with Linda in the Selectmen's Office regarding the camping permit.

Mr. Smith let the CC know that Route 16 to Route I-95 is now denoted as an Important Bird Area (IBA). The CC should include all town open space to be included within the IBA information. Mr. Smith is working with Audubon CT on Lena and Rose Farm for bird habitat and forest management.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary

Attachments:

- Eightmile RiverFest2016 invitation to Environmental and Community Organizations